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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a rich and storied  
3 tradition of hunting and angling that dates back further than  
4 the State itself and carries forward to this day; and

5           WHEREAS, Illinois' sportsmen and women were among the first  
6 conservationists to support the establishment of the Illinois  
7 Department of Natural Resources to conserve fish, wildlife, and  
8 their habitat, and, through their license fees, helped fund  
9 State efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural  
10 resources; and

11           WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were  
12 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife  
13 populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise  
14 taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment to raise  
15 additional conservation funds; and

16           WHEREAS, To this day, the Illinois Department of Natural  
17 Resources is funded primarily by sportsmen and women through  
18 the American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays -  
19 public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most  
20 successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world;  
21 and

1           WHEREAS, In 2013 alone, Illinois's sportsmen and women  
2 generated \$63,419,348 through this System to support the  
3 conservation efforts of the Illinois Department of Natural  
4 Resources; and

5           WHEREAS, Illinois' 1,309,000 hunters and anglers support  
6 the State's economy through spending more than \$2.34 billion  
7 while engaged in their pursuits; this spending supports over  
8 31,597 jobs in Illinois and generates \$277 million in State and  
9 local taxes; and

10           WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established  
11 in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for  
12 their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation  
13 and to our society; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 designate September 26, 2015 as National Hunting and Fishing  
17 Day in Illinois, a day to be set aside in celebration of  
18 Illinois's sportsmen and women; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That we recognize the many and varied social,  
20 cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our  
21 time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.